

Remarks

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC 112

In the original German version the vertical sides of the work piece table appear as “Längsseiten” = longitudinal extending sides, that is in contrast to the transversely extending short sides of the work piece table. These long sides have been designated “lateral sides” in the amended claims.

Though not objected-to, we have reformulated claim 2 somewhat. We respectfully point the Examiner to the Specification, in which the pair of second carriages is disclosed with the slide or bearing body 43 and 44, which cooperate with the guides 41, 42, (page 6, lines 1, 2). On page 8, line 25, the slides 51, 52 and 43, 44 are termed “carriages”. Given this recitation in the Specification, the recitation of a pair of second carriages in claim 3 is not vague and indefinite.

Claim 4 has been amended as proposed by the Examiner.

Claim 9 has been amended in that it relates to claim 5. In claim 5, the pair of first pivot bearings has been mentioned. We have rearranged the wording “at said open side of said cutting-element carrier” in amended claim 9.

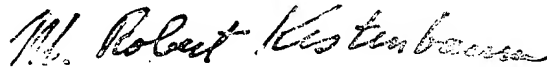
Information Disclosure Statement

We enclose an Information Disclosure Statement for EPO 0 390 939 A1 and EP 0 738 569 A1, which are incorporated by reference. These applications show possible details of the workpiece table used for the present contour cutting-machine and also show the pair of first and second “vertical” sides, now termed longitudinally extending, lateral sides, see Fig. 1 of EP 0 390 939 B1 and Fig. 3 of EP 0 738 569.

Wherefore, further consideration and allowance of the claims in this application is respectfully requested.

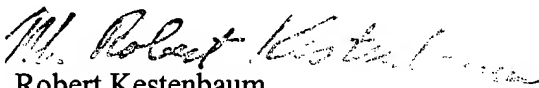
A one-month extension of time in which to respond to the outstanding Office Action is hereby requested. Credit Card Payment Form PTO-2038 is enclosed to cover the prescribed Small Entity one-month extension fee of \$55, as well as the \$180 Information Disclosure Fee (for a total of \$235). Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account 11-0665. A duplicate of this page is enclosed for this purpose.

Respectfully submitted,



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“Version with Markings to show Changes Made”

1.(Amended) A contour-cutting machine, which is particularly suited for cutting foam, comprising:

a workpiece table for supporting and moving workpieces in [defining] a longitudinal direction, said workpiece table,

[(X- direction) and] having support means [an upper side] for supporting said workpieces defining an upper side of said workpiece table, said workpiece table upper side being bounded in said longitudinal direction by [and] a pair of first and second longitudinal extending, lateral [vertical] sides, a table gap extending transversely [(Y direction)] to said longitudinal direction between said pair of lateral [vertical] sides;

said workpiece table including workpiece-[X- direction] driving means for moving said workpieces on said workpiece table upper [table] side in said longitudinal direction [(X)] across said table gap;

a stationary frame that [arranged to]encloses said workpiece table in [the] a vicinity of said table gap;

a movable cutting-element carrier defining a quad and having an open side and an opposite side, said cutting-element carrier supporting a plurality of pulleys;

an endless cutting element mounted on said pulleys and passing through said table gap at said open side of said cutting-element carrier;

cutting-element [Z-direction]driving means for driving said cutting element in a vertical direction [(Z-direction)]along said open side of said cutting-element carrier through a cutting region for said workpieces;

first means for supporting and guiding said cutting-element carrier near said open side thereof in said transverse direction [(Y)] along said table gap;

[(Y)] transverse-direction driving means for driving said cutting-element carrier at said open side thereof in said transverse, direction [(Y)] and

second support means for supporting and guiding said cutting element carrier near said opposite side thereof along said first lateral [vertical] side of [the] said workpiece table in said longitudinal direction.

2. (Amended) The contour-cutting machine of claim 1

wherein said first supporting and guiding means comprises a pair of first rails extending respectively above and below said table gap and being fixed onto said stationary frame, and

a pair of first carriages guided by said pair of first rails and being connected to said cutting element carrier at said open side thereof,

said transverse-direction driving means [for] being arranged to drive [driven at] each of said first carriages with the same speed[s] and to the same extent in said [the] transverse direction of [the] said workpiece-table[by said Y direction driving means].

3. (Amended) The contour-cutting machine of claim 1

wherein said second supporting and guiding means comprises

an upright having an upper end and a lower end, a pair of second stationary rails being located along said first lateral [vertical] side of [the] said workpiece table near said upper end and said lower end of said upright, and

a pair of second carriages that are [being] guided by and along said pair of second rails and are [said second carriages being] connected to said cutting-element carrier at

said opposite side thereof for carrying said opposite side of said cutting-element carrier
along said first lateral [vertical] side of the workpiece table.

4. Amended) The contour-cutting machine of claim 1

wherein said cutting-element carrier comprises:

four corner members and at least an upper bar and a lower bar,

said plurality of pulleys supported by said cutting-element carrier including two
upper pulleys and two lower pulleys, each corner member mounting and journalling one
of said pulleys;

said corner members being arranged according to a rectangle including two upper
corner members and two lower corner members,

said upper corner members being connected to one another by said upper bar and
said lower corner members by said lower bar, each bar [so as to] defin[e]ing [each] a
predetermined distance between said upper pulleys [or] and between said lower pulleys,
respectively

5.(Amended) The contour-cutting machine of claim[s 1] 3

wherein said cutting-element carrier comprises

a pair of first pivot bearings and a pair of second pivot bearings, said first bearings
being connected to said first carriages and said second bearings to said second carriages.

Cancel Claim 6.

Cancel Claim 7.

Cancel Claim 8.

9. (Amended) The contour-cutting machine of claim [1] 5

wherein said pair of first pivot bearings [at said open side of said cutting element carrier] and [said] a knife-rotating device define an axis at said open side of said cutting-element carrier, wherein said cutting-element comprises a [said band knife] cutting element having a cutting edge, said axis [of] defined by said knife-rotating device extending through said cutting edge of said [band knife] cutting element.

~~Cancel Claim 10.~~

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